

QUARTER ONE (JANUARY TO MARCH 2002)

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INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION

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INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION – COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT/MALAWI

Quarterly Activity Report

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Period covered: January – March 2002

A. Major Activities Planned for Period January – March 2002	B. Status and Progress of Activities/Tasks	C. Constraints/ Unexpected Benefits/Lessons Learned Encountered	D. Planned Activities in the forth-coming quarter (April – June 2002)
1. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	1.1. HOME BASEC CARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial training for 40 additional Home Based Care volunteers were conducted which brings a total of 69 HBC volunteers being supported by CHAPS project. In addition, 15 participants were trained as primary and secondary supervisors for the HBC volunteers. The volunteers and the supervisors were provided with HBC kits. Distribution of food commodities (maize and Soya) for HBC patients was conducted and 118 patients received the ration. Training of 99 Traditional Healers on HBC issues was conducted with the aim of strengthening the referral system at community and health facility level. The THs were also trained on primary eye care with emphasis on detection and referral of cataract patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from the HBC volunteers have indicated that the kits that were supplied to the first and second group of the volunteers have been all distributed to the patients. This then, requires the district to re-supply the kits to the volunteers. However, obtaining more kits is becoming a problem that requires more resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of the bicycles ambulance is planned in the forth-coming quarter. Setting up of HBC committees in the 40 villages is planned in the forthcoming quarter to assist in sustaining the HBC's kits, and volunteer's activities.
	1.2. FAMILY PLANNING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresher training for 25 Community Based Distributors of contraceptives was conducted in the quarter. Areas covered included: new dispensing protocols of contraceptives, proper recording keeping, general counselling, voluntary counselling and testing and group talk techniques. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Based Distributors refresher training for the remaining 30 volunteers and seven supervisors Conduct training on syndromic management for sexually transmitted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training for 17 Core Family Planning Providers was conducted. These providers will assist in providing family planning contraceptives with the use of checklist to screen clients before a method is provided. The clients are then referred to the nearest health facility for further assessment while on a method. <p>1.3 TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training for 30 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) was conducted with emphasis on good storage of delivery equipments, safe deliveries and role of TBAs in primary health care. <p>1.4. HIV/AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community awareness for HIV/AIDS activities was conducted in the quarter. Among the activities that were carried out included: commemoration of World AIDS Day and drama performances. Approximately 5,000 people attended the activities that included drama, poems, songs and dances. • The District AIDS Coordinating Committee members carried out support visit to Community Based Organizations (CBO). It was observed that most of the CBOs visited lacked financial support to carry out their activities. 		<p>infections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and training of two Community AIDS Committees • Conduct integrated infant feeding, prevention of mother to child transmission in the context of HIV/AIDS in a 12 days training
2. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of health workers on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness was conducted. The district has trained 71% (n=61) of the target number of the health workers involved in the management of sick children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High staff turn over has affected the implementation of IMCI in the district. Out of all the facilitators and clinical instructors trained, the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of the remaining 25 health workers on IMCI case management • Training of three IMCI supervisors

		<p>is remaining with only two facilitators and two clinical instructors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has resulted in hiring facilitators and clinical instructors from other districts, hence slow progress in conducting the trainings. 	
3. FOOD SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 50 farmers on small livestock production to support clients for the Home Based Care volunteers was conducted with the aim of improving patient's nutrition . The small livestock includes the promotion of guinea fowl and rabbits production. The trainings were carried out with support from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation 's extension workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an acute food shortage in the district as result members of the affected families go to other areas to work for food. This movement of people does not create a suitable environment for maximum community participation in CHAPS activities. • This situation has contributed to low progress in activities involving communities, i.e., construction of outreach shelters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct vegetable seed preservation and pest control training • Procurement of small livestock (rabbits and guinea fowl) for HBC guardians • Conduct training for the Growth Monitoring Volunteers • Work with Garden Committees to recover groundnuts from farmers • Permaculture training in 27 villages is planned in the forth-coming quarter
4. WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mobilization and reactivation of Village Health and Water Committees was conducted in six villages. This was to promote activities on Hygiene Education and Sanitation, village level operation and maintenance of water points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district is experiencing a serious cholera outbreak. The current food shortage in the district disposes people to eat whatever food they come across without considering the hygiene aspect. This also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivate households to construct 1000 pit latrines and improve them with 500 san plats and dome slabs. • Motivate households to install 300 hand-washing facilities close to pit latrines in order to

		<p>contributes to aggravating the cholera situation. Chikwawa district hospital has recorded 899 cases and 11 deaths between January and March 2002. The project assisted during the outbreak in mass IEC awareness campaign.</p>	<p>promote hand-washing behavior after using a latrine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivate households to construct 200 garbage pits, 1000 bath shelters and 1000 dish racks. • Promote 5 exchange visits for VHWC members within the project impact area. • VHWCs to purchase Afridev pump spare parts and 5 VHWCs to open Malawi Savings Bank Accounts. • Continue holding DPMT meetings and extension workers planning and co-ordination meetings every month. • Conduct 30 hygiene education sessions through utilization of trained band groups, video shows and PHAST tools in the project area.
5. DRUG REVOLVING FUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training for Kadulira DRF was conducted and attended by the DRF Dispensers and the committee members. Emphasis during the training was on recording keeping, financial management and drug management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was observed that some health facilities did not have enough stock of DRF drugs that resulted in some DRFs having low stock of drugs even having no drugs at all. However, DRFs with no drugs had money to buy more drugs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct three DRF refresher trainings
6. QUALITY ASSURANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurances Coaches conducted their quarterly meeting. The coaches presented the progress of the quality improvement teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvement teams still needs close mentoring as most of the teams were still 	

		working on their initial problems	
7. INFECTION PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 47 support staff on infection prevention from nine health centers was conducted. The aim was to provide participants with knowledge and skills of lessening the spread of infection and assist health workers in providing quality health care • Procurement of three electrical and seven non electrical sterilizers for the health facilities was done. The sterilizers will be used to sterilize facility equipments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants indicated that the hospital had inadequate supplies to use in infection prevention, like disinfectants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct infection prevention training for the remaining two health centres
8. CONSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the District Hospital Incinerator is completed and in use • Construction of the mechanic pit for vehicle maintenance and six shelters is underway and work is expected to be completed in the forth-coming quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to food shortage, community participation in project activities has been very minimal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of soak ways for Chikwawa and Ngabu Hospitals • Construction and renovation of two outreach clinics • Completion and hand over of outreach shelters
9. MONITORING AND SUPERVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly review meeting for the CHAPS project was conducted. Activities were planned and adjusted accordingly • Focus Group Discussions with Traditional Healers was conducted to review the progress of primary eye care activities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up of community based activities in the forth-coming quarter